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REMARKS

Claims 1 through 12, 14 through 20, 23 through 26, and 27 through 33, remain pending in this case. Claims 13, 21, 22, and 34 have been canceled. Claims 1 through 7, 11, 12, 14, 20, 23 through 25, 27, 28, 30, and 33 have been currently amended. Claims 13, 21, 22, and 33 have been canceled.

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"Claims 1-13 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Ray et al. (US 6,018,722A)."

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Applicant has currently amended Claim 1 to now include the limitations of Claim 13 with additional clarity. More specifically, the limitations added call for ". . . , wherein the user can select either a real mode in which to access the market to perform real time actual asset transactions made by the data processing means, or a virtual mode in which the transactions are performed virtually using actual market values at the time without making an asset transaction, and the results are tracked using actual market results as if an actual transaction had been made in the market." On page 5 of the Office Action, paragraph 18, the Examiner advised that Ray in column 1, line 55, and column 3, line 34, disclosed and anticipated the limitations of Claim 13.

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Applicant has carefully reviewed Ray, and has not found any such teachings, causing Applicant to be confused by the Examiner's rejection of Claim 13. Applicant also reviewed the teachings of the other references cited but not relied upon, and did not find any such teaching in these

5 references. Applicant noted that Jones et al. (6,021,397) teaches simulating returns, but does not use actual market values in a virtual mode to determine what the actual returns would have been had the investment actually been made in a particular asset, and clearly does not anticipate or make obvious the limitations of Claim 1, as amended. Also, Moran (6,430,542) teaches the use of a "Virtual Executor" for simulating distributions from wills, and the combination of
10 disbursements and resources belonging to the survivors before death occurred, but does not teach the virtual asset transaction embodiment of Applicant, as now claimed in Claim 1. Accordingly, Claim 1 is patentable over Ray et al., and is also patentable over other of the cited references whether taken individually, or in combination with one another and Ray.

Claims 2 through 12 are each ultimately depended from Claim 1 (Currently Amended).
15 Accordingly, claims 1 through 12 are patentable for at least the same reasons as Claim 1 (Currently Amended).

"Claims 14-26 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Ray et al (US. 6,018,722A)." Applicant has currently amended Claim 14 to now include the limitations of Claims 21 and 22. The Examiner advised that Claim 21 is anticipated by the teachings of Ray in column
20 1, line 55, and column 3, line 34. The Examiner also rejected Claim 22 as being anticipated by the teachings of Ray in the same columns and lines as for the rejection of Claim 21. Applicant has carefully reviewed Ray, and did not find any such teachings in Ray that would anticipate or make obvious the combination of elements of Claims 21 and 22. Applicant is confused by the Examiner's comments, and does not understand how the Examiner rejected Claims 21 and 22 on
25 the teachings of Ray. Applicant has carefully reviewed the teachings of Ray, and the teachings

5 of other of the cited references, and has not uncovered any teachings that anticipate or make obvious the combination of elements of Claim 14 as currently amended. For example, none of the cited references whether taken individually or in any combination anticipate or make obvious the use of an "animation character" as now called for in Claim 14 (Currently Amended). Accordingly, Claim 14 (Currently Amended) is patentable over the cited references whether taken
10 individually or in any combination.

Claims 23 and 24 have each been currently amended to now be dependent from Claim 14 (Currently Amended). Claims 15 through 20, and 23 through 26, are each ultimately dependent from Claim 14 (Currently Amended). Accordingly, these dependent claims are patentable over the cited references for at least the same reasons as Claim 14 (Currently Amended).

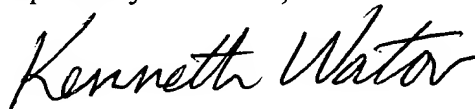
15 "Claims 27-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ray et al (US 6,018,722A)." Applicant has currently amended Claim 27 to include the limitations of Claim 34, which limitations have been reworded for purposes of clarity. The Examiner rejected Claim 34 as being anticipated by the teachings of Ray for the same reasons that Claim 13 was rejected. As with the rejection to Claim 13, Applicant does not understand how the Examiner came to make
20 this rejection, and comments made previously herein relative to the cited references with regard to Claim 13 are applicable directly with regard to Claim 34. The combination of elements of Claim 27, as currently amended, are not anticipated or made obvious by the teachings of the cited references whether taken individually or in any combination. Accordingly Claim 27, as currently amended is patentable.

5 Claims 28 through 33 are each ultimately dependent from Claim 27 (Currently Amended).
Accordingly, these claims are patentable for at least the same reasons as Claim 27 (Currently
Amended).

 Claims 2 through 7, 11, 12, 25, 28, and 33 have been amended to change "grounds" to - -
parameters - - , for better clarity. Claims 7, 20, 24, and 25 have been amended to correct the
10 spelling of "database."

 Applicant has shown that the claims as now presented are patentable over the cited
references, whether taken individually or in any combination. Accordingly, it is respectfully
requested that the claims as now presented be allowed, and the case passed to issue. However,
if any issues remain, the undersigned respectfully requests the Examiner to telephone him to
15 discuss these issues in order to expedite Applicant's obtaining allowance of the claims, and an
issued patent.

Respectfully submitted,



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